

House Bill 81 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Hill of the 180th, Lane of the 158th, Barnard of the 166th, Burns of the 157th, Williams of the 165th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, so as to change certain provisions relating to definitions; to provide for veterans' lifetime sportsman's licenses and fees therefor; to change certain provisions relating to charter fishing guide and pier fishing licenses, fees, and maintenance of records; to provide for new licenses relative to salt water fishing; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, is amended by adding to Code Section 27-1-2, relating to definitions, new paragraphs to read as follows:

"(61.1) 'Salt water fishing guide' means a person engaged in the occupation of taking fee-paying anglers fishing in the salt waters of this state.

(61.2) 'Salt water fishing pier' means a permanent structure built and maintained for the purpose of providing fishing access in the salt waters of this state and associated with a hotel or motel."

SECTION 1A.

Said title is further amended by revising subsections (e) and (f) of Code Section 27-2-3.1, relating to archery and primitive weapons hunting licenses, all weapons hunting licenses, sportsmen's licenses, license card carrier requirements, and creation of lifetime sportsman's licenses, as follows:

"(e)(1) The requirements in this title for procuring any license, stamp, or permit for noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a resident or nonresident who procures a lifetime sportsman's license.

(2) An applicant for such license who is a resident shall, prior to the issuance of the license, provide satisfactory evidence of residency.

(3) An applicant for a veteran's lifetime sportsman's license shall, in addition to satisfactory evidence of residency, be required to provide satisfactory evidence that he or she served more than 90 days of federal active duty military service and was honorably discharged.

(4) An applicant for such license who is a nonresident shall not be eligible for issuance of such license unless he or she is under 16 years of age and is the grandchild of a resident who holds a valid paid lifetime sportsman's license. The resident grandparent who holds such a lifetime sportsman's license and who is the sponsor of a nonresident applicant for a lifetime sportsman's license must certify the nonresident applicant's relationship to him or her in writing to the department.

(5) For purposes of procuring a lifetime sportsman's license, the term 'residency' means a domicile within Georgia for a minimum of 12 consecutive months immediately prior to procuring such license. Satisfactory evidence of residency shall consist of a current Georgia driver's license or official Georgia identification card issued by the Department of Driver Services and at least one of the following:

~~(1)~~(A) A voter registration card;

~~(2)~~(B) A copy of the prior year's Georgia income tax return;

~~(3)~~(C) A current Georgia automobile registration; or

~~(4)~~(D) A warranty deed to property at the same address as is displayed on the Georgia driver's license.

Minors under 18 years of age shall be presumed to be residents upon proof of parent's residency as provided for in this Code section. For purposes of procuring the Type I (Infant) lifetime license, a certified copy of the birth certificate of the licensee shall be required.

(f)(1) Lifetime sportsman's licenses and fees for residents shall be as follows:

(A) Type I (Infant), available only to those individuals under two years of age: \$200.00;

(B) Type Y (Youth), available only to those individuals from two through 15 years of age: \$350.00;

(C) Type A (Adult), available to those individuals 16 years of age or older: \$500.00;

(D) Type SD (Senior Discount), available to those individuals 60 years of age or older: \$95.00; ~~and~~

(E) Type S (Senior), available to those individuals 65 years of age or older: no charge; and

(F) Type V (Veterans), available only to those individuals who served more than 90 days of federal active duty military service and were honorably discharged: eighty

percent of the amount of the fee specified for Type A lifetime sportsman's licenses in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph."

SECTION 2.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-23.2, relating to charter fishing guide and pier fishing licenses, fees, and maintenance of records, as follows:

"27-2-23.2.

~~(a) Any United States Coast Guard licensed captain operating a charter fishing vessel and any person operating a hotel or motel having a fishing pier or piers may purchase one fishing license pursuant to the provisions of this Code section covering all persons fishing from such vessel or pier. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the occupation of salt water fishing guide without holding a valid annual salt water fishing guide license pursuant to the provisions of this Code section.~~

(b)(1) A salt water fishing guide who possesses a valid United States Coast Guard operator of passenger vessel license may purchase an annual customer fishing license pursuant to the provisions of this Code section, which license shall cover all fee-paying anglers while fishing with such guide during the license year; and all such anglers while so covered shall be exempt from fishing license requirements otherwise applicable under this title.

(2) Any person operating a single hotel or motel facility having a salt water fishing pier or piers may purchase an annual salt water fishing pier license pursuant to the provisions of this Code section, which license shall cover all anglers while fishing from such salt water fishing pier during the license year; and all such anglers while so covered shall be exempt from fishing license requirements otherwise applicable under this title.

~~(b) Fees for charter fishing and pier licenses required under this Code section shall be \$400.00 per year for each vessel and \$400.00 per year for all piers operated by any one hotel or motel; as follows:~~

(1)(A) Resident salt water fishing guide license, \$25.00;

(B) Nonresident salt water fishing guide license, \$50.00;

(2)(A)(i) Customer fishing license for a resident salt water fishing guide carrying six or fewer fee-paying anglers, \$150.00;

(ii) Customer fishing license for a resident salt water fishing guide carrying an unlimited number of fee-paying anglers, \$400.00;

(B) Customer fishing license for a nonresident salt water fishing guide, \$400.00; and

(3) Salt water fishing pier license, \$400.00.

~~(c) Each operator of a charter fishing vessel or pier licensed pursuant to this Code section shall maintain at all times a log book showing the names of persons accommodated under~~

1 ~~the vessel or pier fishing license each day and such other information as may be required~~
2 ~~by the department.~~

3 (d) Each person ~~required to maintain records~~ who holds a salt water fishing guide license
4 or salt water fishing pier license pursuant to the provisions of ~~subsection (c) of~~ this Code
5 section shall report such information as required by the department at such times and in
6 such manner as the board provides by rule or regulation."

7 **SECTION 3.**

8 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.